

hopes of curing the sick by giving them modified air or gases to breathe. Hence the cows. Their use for consumptives was not his own idea. In his *Considerations on the Medicinal Use and on the Production of Factitious Airs*, he quotes several cases, among others that of a young lady of Sweden, who had been given over as hopeless and was placed by a certain Dr. Bergius in a large hall with stables for four cows. A stage was constructed to hold a bed and chairs for her, on a level with the cows' heads. By the next summer she was cured; in the winter following she grew tired of her cows and abandoned them. But this infidelity was duly requited. In the spring she caught cold; her malady returned; still she refused even to sleep with the cows; and soon after perished miserably. Whether this remarkable effect was due to the cows subtracting oxygen from the air, or adding alkaline exhalations to it, or simply to their maintaining an even and genial warmth, as a kind of central heating, Dr. Beddoes seems to have remained in doubt,

He also experimented with nitrous oxide or laughing-gas; the curious effects of which were now first discovered by the young Humphry Davy, whom Beddoes had unearthed as an obscure surgeon's apprentice of nineteen at Penzance and made superintendent of the Pneumatic Institution. This strange gas produced, as may be imagined, much excitement at the time, and a

good deal of
scepticism; witness a story in the
reminiscences of Cotde,
the Bristol publisher and friend of Southey and
Coleridge:
It became now an object with Dr. B. to witness
the effects
this potent gas might produce on one of the
softer sex,
and he prevailed on a courageous young lady
(Miss-----)
to breathe out of his pretty *green lag* this
delightful
nitrous oxide. After a few inspirations, to the
astonish-
ment of everybody, the young lady clashed
out of the